

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HALIFA 00122 031714Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
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P 031605Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2064
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0122

E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT CA
SUBJECT: PEI THRONE SPEECH: SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

1. THE TEACHINGS OF THE LATE DR ERNEST FRIEDRICH SCHUMACHER IN HIS BOOK, "SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL", WERE SEIZED UPON SOME YEARS AGO BY PEI PREMIER ALEX CAMPBELL AND HAVE SERVED EVER SINCE AS A DOMINANT THEME IN THE PHILOSOPHY UNDERLYING THE ADMINISTRATION OF HIS ISLAND PROVINCE. THIS THEME WAS AGAIN EVIDENT IN THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE WHICH WAS READ TO THE PEI LEGISLATURE ON MAR 2 BY LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR GORDON L BENNETT. THE EMPHASIS WAS ON SELF-HELP, SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE PRIMARY RESOURCE AND SMALL INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY. PLEDGED TO HOLD THE LINE ON TAXATION, THE GOVERNMENT EMPHASIZED ITS RELUCTANCE TO INCREASE SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND WELFARE BENEFITS. WHERE NEW PROGRAMS OR INITIATIVES WERE ANNOUNCED, INFORMATION ON THEIR FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION WAS VAGUE. TWICE IN HIS SPEECH, HOWEVER, LT-GOV BENNETT HAD OCCASION TO WARN THAT ISLANDERS WILL HAVE TO "DO MORE WITH LESS".

2. AMONG THE NEW PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED IN THE SPEECH,
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THE FOLLOWING WERE NOTABLE:

--THE PLANNED ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEI ENERGY CORPORATION TO FACILITATE THE PURCHASE AND OPERATION OF WOOD-BURNING AND OTHER TYPES OF GENERATORS EMPLOYING "ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY" AND TO FACILITATE THE CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF LESS EXPENSIVE POWER

FROM NEIGHBORING PROVINCES.

--A MAJOR REFORESTATION PROGRAM INVOLVING ONE-THIRD
OF THE ISLAND S WOODLANDS.

--A POTPOURRI OF MODEST AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS
AIMED AT ASSISTING GROWERS AND ENLARGING MARKETS.

--THE INTRODUCTION IN 1978 OF A SUBSIDY ON NEW
FISHING VESSELS BUILT IN ISLAND BOAT YARDS FOR
ISLANDERS.

3. FULL TEXT OF THRONE SPEECH WILL BE POUCHED TO
EUR/CAN AND EMBASSY OTTAWA WHEN RECEIVED.

MOORE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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